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URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY  
(STAFFORDSHIRE)

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1964



URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY

(Staffordshire)

-----

A N N U A L     R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1964



SEDGLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor F. S. Dews.

Members:

Councillor A.H.Jones, J.P., C.C.,  
(Chairman of Council)

|            |                     |
|------------|---------------------|
| Councillor | G. W. Beswick       |
| "          | T. P. Hanley        |
| "          | K. Knight           |
| "          | T. Parkin           |
| "          | A. Shore            |
| "          | H. O. Smith         |
| "          | C. A. Turner        |
| "          | Mrs. E. E. Williams |



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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

F.B.Mackenzie, D.S.O., M.C., T.D., M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
(Acting)

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:  
David J. W. Robertson, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.Inst.P.C.,  
Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

R. B. M. Anderson, A.R.S.H., A.I.P.H.E., M.R.I.P.H.H., M.A.P.H.I.,  
Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

J. Millward, Cert. P.H.I.J.B., A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., R.S.H. Diploma  
for Smoke Inspectors.

Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

M. A. Johnson, Pupil Public Health Inspector.

Clerical Staff:

Mrs. J. Rushton

Miss C. M. Edwards

Miss C. J. Turley (Resigned October 1964)

Official Address and Telephone Number of Medical Officer of Health:-

Clifton Villa, 28, High Holborn Sedgley.

Sedgley 4422

Private Telephone Number.

Wolverhampton 37320



STATISTICAL SUMMARY 1964

Area: 3,823 acres

Population: 31,600 (Estimated)

Number of Inhabited Houses: 9901

Sum represented by a Penny Rate; £3860.

Ratable Value: £976,413

General Rate: 9/-.

Birth Rate: 20.31 (crude)  
17.26 (standardised)  
18.4 (England and Wales)

Death Rate: 12.03 (crude)  
12.15 (standardised)  
11.3 (England and Wales)

Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 births: 20.24  
England and Wales: 20.00

Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis: 2

Deaths from other Tuberculosis Diseases: Nil



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR 1964.

SEDGLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1964. Incorporated in it, is that of your Public Health Inspector.

The report deals with Public Health subjects in sections as follows:-

- (a) Vital statistics affecting the Urban District.
- (b) General Provision of Health Services.
- (c) Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.
- (d) Tuberculosis.
- (e) Housing.
- (f) Sanitary Circumstances of the District.
- (g) Report of your Public Health Inspector on those matters which fall within his sphere of activities.

The implementing of new legislation continues to add to your Public Health Inspector's work.

Such new legislation introduced in the course of the year were the Shops, Offices and Railway Premises Act and Compulsory Improvement Areas under the Housing Act, 1964.

Nevertheless, your Inspectors have continued to give intensive attention to Food Hygiene and to Meat Inspection, two duties which must not be neglected however great the demands on their time may be.

The population of the urban district as estimated mid-year 1964 by the Registrar-General is given as 31,600, an increase of 610 last year.

The crude birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 20.31 giving a standardised birth rate of 17.26, the rate for England and Wales being 18.4.

The crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 12.03 giving a standardised death rate of 12.15, the rate for England and Wales being 11.3.

The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 262 which can be regarded as natural increase of district population.

Heart disease, vascular lesions of the nervous system, cancer and respiratory disease continue to be the predominating causes of adult death. In respect of heart disease there were 130 deaths of which 83 were coronary disease (41 male and 42 female).

Deaths from cancer all forms were 58 (37 males, 21 females) as against 53 last year.

Deaths from cancer of lung and bronchus were 11, against 10 last year. Ages at death were between 55 and 75 (ten males, one female).

No maternal deaths were recorded during the year.

The number of infant deaths was 13, giving an infantile mortality rate of 20.24 per 1,000 births. The rate for England and Wales was 20.0 per 1,000 live births and was the lowest ever recorded in the country.

Causes of death are shown in relevant tables.

The incidence of infectious disease has been low in the district.

Again there have been no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria.

In respect of diphtheria, this once dreaded disease has responded so well to immunisation measures that it is now a clinical rarity.

As regards poliomyelitis, with the acceptance of immunisation now available, the incidence of this disease can at least be much reduced and perhaps the same position as in diphtheria eventually reached.

There were two adult deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis. In respect of this disease ~~seven~~ <sup>FOUR</sup> new cases were notified as against 5 last year. Further to this, four more cases were added to the register as inward transfers from other or neighbouring districts.

In respect of the general sanitary conditions of the district they are satisfactory.

More detailed information is given in the section of the report furnished by your inspector.

I convey my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support throughout the year and commend their watchfulness as to the sanitary conditions of your urban district.

As much ill-health can result from unsatisfactory and adverse housing conditions I am also appreciative of the consideration given by your Housing Committee to cases I have referred to them on medical grounds.

I thank the local practitioners for their continued co-operation and the Chest Physicians and Directors of the Public Health Laboratory Service and Mass Radiography Unit for their reports.

I record my appreciation of the efficient services of your Public Health Inspectors throughout the year.

I am glad to have this yearly opportunity of thanking your Clerk for advice on points which have arisen from time to time. I am also indebted to your Surveyor and Housing Manager for their co-operation, and to all other colleagues administrative and clerical.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

F.B. MACKENZIE,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1964.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

### GENERAL HOSPITALS

All such are under the administration of the Regional Hospital Board and are situate outside the Urban District. They are the hospitals of Wolverhampton, Dudley and Birmingham and are easily accessible.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Provision for admission and treatment of such cases is made by the Regional Hospital Board.

### TUBERCULOSIS

Institutions are maintained by the Regional Hospital Board for the treatment of persons suffering from Tuberculosis. The visiting of Tuberculosis patients in relation to their care and after-care is under the administration of the County Council. Chest Clinics are situated at Dudley and Wolverhampton and several Sanatoria are available.

### VENEREAL DISEASES

Facilities for treatment are available at the special departments of the Hospitals serving the district.

### MATERNITY

The Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home which forms part of Burton Road Hospital, and Wordsley Hospital, are under the administration of the Regional Hospital Board. They provide accommodation for cases referred or booked from the Ante-Natal Clinics or by General Practitioners. Cases wishing to remain at home are delivered by the County Midwives who if so required can call for the obstetric assistance of a General Practitioner.

MIDWIVES AND ANTE-NATAL CLINICS are provided and administered by the County Council.

### AMBULANCE SERVICE

This service is operated by the County Council, the Area Health Committee receiving in part delegated functions regarding the day to day running. The Area is served by two Ambulance Stations.

- (a) Wordsley Ambulance Station, Stream Road, Wordsley.  
Telephone Number - Kingswinford 3306.
- (b) Tettenhall Ambulance Station, The Green, Tettenhall.  
Telephone Number - Wolverhampton 51530.

Both stations provide a 24 hour service.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

In accordance with Part III of the National Health Service Act, the following services are provided by the Local Health Authority, namely the County Council.

- Care of Mothers and Young Children.
- Health Visiting.
- Home Nursing.
- Vaccination and Immunisation.
- Prevention of Illness, care and after-care.
- Domestic Help.
- Mental Health Services.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service in Stafford.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948  
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951  
REMOVAL OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

These Acts deal with the care of aged and infirm persons incapable of looking after themselves; and give powers to remove to a suitable hostel or institution if considered necessary.

It was not found necessary during the year to remove any person under Section 47 of the Act.

The situation those Acts are designed to deal with provokes thought as to the future, socially as well as economically, in so far as the recent advances in modern and antibiotic therapy and in preventive public health legislation and measures are prolonging and saving lives at the extremes of age, resulting in a national economic problem in respect of an increasing proportion of old people.

The Domestic Help service operated by the Area Health Committee does its best to meet the demands made for such services.

Recruitment of suitable women to maintain an effective strength would appear to be the difficulty.

No. of cases receiving help during the year:-

|                   |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Domestic Help ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 95 |
| Neighbourly Help  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | -- |

No. of Helps employed at end of year:-

|                   |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Domestic Help ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Neighbourly Help  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | -- |

The availability of medical equipment and comforts to invalids through the Social Welfare Committee and the Women's Voluntary Service is also a valuable asset.

The setting up and operation of a "Meals-on-Wheels" service is being given consideration.

### NURSES

The District Nurses continue to give their indispensable services in alleviating sickness and making illness more tolerable. Appreciation is extended to them.

The Old Peoples Clubs which have been set up in the district also contribute to the welfare and happiness of the old people.

The Area Welfare Officer, Mr. R.C. Cox continues to give valuable support in securing institutional accommodation for those aged and infirm people who are incapable of looking after themselves.

### CHIROPODY

Great advantage is being taken of this service.

The number on the Register and receiving treatment at moment of reporting is as follows:-

|                     |     |     |     |     |     |            |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Sedgley Clinic      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 132        |
| Lower Gornal Clinic | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 109        |
| Total               |     |     |     |     |     | <u>241</u> |

Those figures include Domiciliary cases.

### SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

The Medical Inspection of School Children is provided by the County Council who have also established Ophthalmic, Ear, Nose and Throat, Dental and Orthopaedic Clinics. The various age groups are examined periodically and from the School Inspections referred to those Clinics or to the General Practitioner if considered advisable.

In cases of Infectious Disease, and if deemed necessary, special steps are taken in conjunction with the School Authority to exclude scholars who have been in contact with such disease.

Protective measures and isolation are under the direction of the Health Department.

## VITAL STATISTICS

|                                                                                                                            | M.  | F.  | TOTAL |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| LIVE BIRTHS                                                                                                                | 336 | 306 | 642   |
| Legitimate                                                                                                                 | 330 | 297 | 627   |
| Illegitimate                                                                                                               | 6   | 9   | 15    |
| Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (crude)...                                                                            | ... | ... | 20.31 |
| Standardised Birth Rate ... ..                                                                                             | ... | ... | 17.26 |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ...                                                                 |     |     | 2.33  |
| Still-births ... ..                                                                                                        | ... | ... | 10    |
| Still-birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still-births ...                                                                       | ... | ... | 15.33 |
| Total Live and Still-births ... ..                                                                                         | ... | ... | 652   |
| Infant Deaths ... ..                                                                                                       | ... | ... | 13    |
| Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ...                                                                            | ... | ... | 20.24 |
| Legitimate Infant Mortality Rtae per 1,000 legitimate<br>births                                                            |     |     | 20.73 |
| Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate<br>live births                                                   |     |     | Nil   |
| Neo-natal (first four weeks) Mortality Rate per 1,000<br>live births                                                       |     |     | 18.69 |
| Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week)<br>per thousand live births ... ..                                  | ... | ... | 15.58 |
| Perinatal Mortality Rate (Still-births and deaths<br>under one week combined) per thousand live and<br>still-births ... .. | ... | ... | 30.07 |
| Maternal Deaths (including abortion) ... ..                                                                                | ... | ... | Nil   |
| Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still-births ...                                                                |     |     | Nil   |
|                                                                                                                            | M.  | F.  | TOTAL |
| Deaths ... ..                                                                                                              | 221 | 159 | 380   |
| Death Rate (crude) ... ..                                                                                                  | ... | ... | 12.03 |
| Standardised Death Rate ... ..                                                                                             | ... | ... | 12.15 |
| Deaths from Caner (all ages) ....                                                                                          | ... | ... | 58    |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..                                                                                      | ... | ... | Nil   |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..                                                                               | ... | ... | Nil   |
| Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ... ..                                                                      | ... | ... |       |

## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1964

|     |                                         |     |     |     |     | M.  | F.  |
|-----|-----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1.  | Tuberculosis, respiratory               | ... | ... | ... |     | 2   | -   |
| 2.  | Tuberculosis, other                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | -   | -   |
| 3.  | Syphilitic disease                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | -   | -   |
| 4.  | Diphtheria                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | -   | -   |
| 5.  | Whooping Cough                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | -   | -   |
| 6.  | Meningococcal infections                | ... | ... | ... | ... | -   | -   |
| 7.  | Acute poliomyelitis                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | -   | -   |
| 8.  | Measles                                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | -   | -   |
| 9.  | Other infective and parasitic diseases  | ... | ... | ... | ... | -   | -   |
| 10. | Malignant neoplasm, stomach             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3   | 2   |
| 11. | Malignant neoplasm, lungs, bronchus     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10. | 1   |
| 12. | Malignant neoplasm, breast              | ... | ... | ... | ... | -   | 5   |
| 13. | Malignant neoplasm, uterus              | ... | ... | ... | ... | -   | -   |
| 14. | Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24  | 12  |
| 15. | Leukaemia, aleukaemia                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | -   | 1   |
| 16. | Diabetes                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1   | 1   |
| 17. | Vascular lesions of nervous system      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32  | 39  |
| 18. | Coronary disease, angina                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 41  | 42  |
| 19. | Hypertension with heart disease         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9   | 1   |
| 20. | Other heart diseases                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22  | 15  |
| 21. | Other circulatory diseases              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11  | 8   |
| 22. | Influenza                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | -   | 1   |
| 23. | Pneumonia                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7   | 11  |
| 24. | Bronchitis                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18  | 3   |
| 25. | Other diseases of respiratory system    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1   | -   |
| 26. | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5   | -   |
| 27. | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2   | -   |
| 28. | Nephritis and nephrosis                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | -   | -   |
| 29. | Hyperplasia of prostate                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2   | -   |
| 30. | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion         | ... | ... | ... | ... | -   | -   |
| 31. | Congenital malformations                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5   | 3   |
| 32. | Other defined and ill-defined diseases  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14  | 10  |
| 33. | Motor vehicle accidents                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3   | -   |
| 34. | All other accidents                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6   | 4   |
| 35. | Suicide                                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3   | -   |
| 36. | Homicide and operations of war          | ... | ... | ... | ... | -   | -   |
|     |                                         |     |     |     |     | 221 | 159 |

# BIRTH RATES

| YEAR | SEDGLEY                |            |              | England<br>and Wales<br>Birth<br>Rate |
|------|------------------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
|      | Number<br>of<br>Births | BIRTH RATE |              |                                       |
|      |                        | Crude      | Standardised |                                       |
| 1955 | 293                    | 12.03      | --           | 15.0                                  |
| 1956 | 345                    | 14.29      | 13.58        | 15.7                                  |
| 1957 | 385                    | 15.62      | 15.15        | 16.1                                  |
| 1958 | 352                    | 13.89      | 13.47        | 16.4                                  |
| 1959 | 394                    | 15.00      | 13.95        | 16.5                                  |
| 1960 | 474                    | 17.28      | 15.07        | 17.1                                  |
| 1961 | 538                    | 18.97      | 17.45        | 17.4                                  |
| 1962 | 583                    | 19.47      | 17.91        | 18.0                                  |
| 1963 | 581                    | 18.74      | 15.74        | 18.2                                  |
| 1964 | 642                    | 20.31      | 17.26        | 18.4                                  |

# DEATH RATES

| YEAR | SEDGLEY                |            |              | England<br>and Wales<br>Death<br>Rate |
|------|------------------------|------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
|      | Number<br>of<br>Deaths | DEATH RATE |              |                                       |
|      |                        | Crude      | Standardised |                                       |
| 1955 | 726                    | 30.58      | ---          | 11.7                                  |
| 1956 | 642                    | 26.60      | 10.90        | 11.7.                                 |
| 1957 | 592                    | 24.61      | 11.28        | 11.5                                  |
| 1958 | 458                    | 18.08      | 10.48        | 11.7                                  |
| 1959 | 370                    | 14.05      | 10.71        | 11.6                                  |
| 1960 | 392                    | 14.29      | 11.00        | 11.5                                  |
| 1961 | 395                    | 13.93      | 11.42        | 12.0                                  |
| 1962 | 398                    | 13.29      | 12.62        | 11.9                                  |
| 1963 | 401                    | 12.93      | 10.86        | 12.2                                  |
| 1964 | 380                    | 12.03      | 12.15        | 11.3                                  |

# INFANTILE MORTALITY 1964

Nett deaths from causes stated at various ages under one year of age.

| CAUSES OF DEATH        | Under 1 week | 1 - 2 weeks | 2 - 3 weeks | 3 - 4 weeks | TOTAL under 1 month. | 1 - 3 months | 3 - 6 months | 6 - 9 months | 9 - 12 months | TOTAL DEATHS under 1 year. |
|------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Prematurity            | 2            | -           | -           | -           | 2                    | -            | -            | -            | -             | 2                          |
| Congenital Atelectasis | 1            | -           | -           | -           | 1                    | -            | -            | -            | -             | 1                          |
| Meningomyelocele       | 1            | -           | -           | -           | 1                    | -            | -            | -            | -             | 1                          |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage   | 2            | -           | -           | -           | 2                    | -            | -            | -            | -             | 2                          |
| Asphyxia               | 1            | -           | -           | -           | 1                    | -            | -            | -            | -             | 1                          |
| Meningitis             | -            | -           | -           | -           | -                    | -            | 1            | -            | -             | 1                          |
| Septicaemia            | -            | 1           | -           | -           | 1                    | -            | -            | -            | -             | 1                          |
| Cerebral Anoxia        | 1            | -           | -           | -           | 1                    | -            | -            | -            | -             | 1                          |
| Duodenal Stenosis      | 1            | -           | -           | -           | 1                    | -            | -            | -            | -             | 1                          |
| Bronchopneumonia       | 1            | -           | -           | -           | 1                    | -            | -            | -            | -             | 1                          |
| Meningocele            | -            | 1           | -           | -           | 1                    | -            | -            | -            | -             | 1                          |
|                        | 10           | 2           | -           | -           | 12                   | -            | 1            | -            | -             | 13                         |

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES

| YEAR | SEDGLEY |        |                          | England and<br>Wales per<br>1,000 births |
|------|---------|--------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|      | Births  | Deaths | Rate per<br>1,000 births |                                          |
| 1955 | 293     | 13     | 44.37                    | 24.9                                     |
| 1956 | 345     | 10     | 28.98                    | 23.8                                     |
| 1957 | 385     | 18     | 46.75                    | 23.0                                     |
| 1958 | 352     | 12     | 34.09                    | 22.5                                     |
| 1959 | 394     | 7      | 17.77                    | 22.0                                     |
| 1960 | 474     | 12     | 25.3                     | 21.7                                     |
| 1961 | 538     | 12     | 22.30                    | 21.4                                     |
| 1962 | 583     | 11     | 18.8                     | 21.4                                     |
| 1963 | 581     | 8      | 13.8                     | 20.9                                     |
| 1964 | 642     | 13     | 20.2                     | 20.0                                     |

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

No case of this disease was notified in the Sedgley Urban District during the year, nor have any cases been recorded in the urban district for many years, a situation that reflects on the efficiency of the midwives.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND  
OTHER DISEASES

The total number of notified cases of infectious disease was 17 as against 394 last year, exclusive of Tuberculosis.

Whooping Cough

6 cases as against 3 last year.

Measles

11 cases as against 390 last year.

CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL

Moxley Hospital

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Gastro-Enteritis ..... | 5 |
| Whooping Cough .....   | 2 |
| Tonsillitis .....      | 1 |

Hayley Green (Halesowen)

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Acute Diarrhoea..... | 1 |
|----------------------|---|

Prestwood Sanatorium

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Tuberculosis ..... | 4 |
|--------------------|---|

SWABS AND SPECIMENS submitted to Public Health Laboratory.

Sputa Swabs ..... 23

Faecal specimens ..... 98

The majority of sputa swabs were submitted by the Tuberculosis Officer. As regards the large number of faecal specimens many were repeat and follow-up specimens in respect of individuals under treatment or observation by private practitioners. Further information in respect of the faecal specimens is given below:-

Investigation of suspected food poisoning

During the year a total of 98 faecal specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. These were taken from a total of 39 persons (and one dog) who had been associated with cases of suspected outbreaks.

Laboratory reports were positive in five cases only, and the organisms isolated in each case were of the Salmonella Group. This group of organism is the one usually responsible for the majority of food poisoning outbreaks.

Of the five positive cases, one had continued under observation from the preceding year and had been treated by the family practitioner in co-operation with this Department.

The four remaining cases discovered during the year were as follows:-

- (a) Two in same family - Mother and child.  
The infection was attributed to sausages produced in an adjoining district. The source of infection was traced and dealt with.



## Smallpox

Vaccinations performed during 1964:-

|                   |       |              |                      |      |      |
|-------------------|-------|--------------|----------------------|------|------|
| Number vaccinated | ..... | under 1 year | 26                   | (25) |      |
| "                 | "     | .....        | 1 to 4 years         | 213  | (72) |
| "                 | "     | .....        | 5 to 14 years        | 18   | (13) |
| "                 | "     | .....        | 15 years and<br>over | 12   | (24) |

|       |     |       |
|-------|-----|-------|
| Total | 269 | (134) |
|-------|-----|-------|

|                   |       |              |                   |     |      |
|-------------------|-------|--------------|-------------------|-----|------|
| Number vaccinated | ..... | 1 to 4 years | ---               | (3) |      |
| "                 | "     | .....        | 5 to 14 years     | 9   | (4)  |
| "                 | "     | .....        | 15 years and over | 16  | (24) |

|       |    |      |
|-------|----|------|
| Total | 25 | (31) |
|-------|----|------|

(Figures in brackets relate to 1963).

## Diphtheria

|                                                                             |     |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|
| Total number of children who have received primary immunisation during 1963 | 589 | (695) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|

|                                                          |     |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------|
| Number who have had a re-inforcing injection during 1964 | 348 | (1646) |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------|

|       |     |        |
|-------|-----|--------|
| Total | 938 | (2341) |
|-------|-----|--------|

## Whooping Cough

Number of children immunised during the year ended 31st December 1964

|             |     |       |
|-------------|-----|-------|
| Primary ... | 443 | (369) |
|-------------|-----|-------|

|                  |     |     |
|------------------|-----|-----|
| Re-inforcing ... | 164 | (2) |
|------------------|-----|-----|

|       |     |       |
|-------|-----|-------|
| Total | 607 | (371) |
|-------|-----|-------|

(Figures in brackets relate to 1963).

## Tetanus Inoculation

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| Primary ... | 600 |
|-------------|-----|

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Re-inforcing ... | 194 |
|------------------|-----|

|     |
|-----|
| 794 |
|-----|

## Poliomyelitis

Immunisation was offered at all Clinics and Infant Welfare Centres.

Figures are not available at date of reporting.



# TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of new cases notified during the year was four pulmonary against five pulmonary in the year 1963. There were no new non-pulmonary cases notified.

| AGE PERIODS.      | NEW CASES. |    |          |    | DEATHS.      |    |         |    |
|-------------------|------------|----|----------|----|--------------|----|---------|----|
|                   | Pul.       |    | Non-Pul. |    | Respiratory. |    | Others. |    |
|                   | M.         | F. | M.       | F. | M.           | F. | M.      | F. |
| Under 1 year      | -          | -  | -        | -  | -            | -  | -       | -  |
| 1 to 2 years      | -          | -  | -        | -  | -            | -  | -       | -  |
| 2 to 4 years      | -          | -  | -        | -  | -            | -  | -       | -  |
| 5 to 9 years      | -          | -  | -        | -  | -            | -  | -       | -  |
| 10 to 14 years    | -          | -  | -        | -  | -            | -  | -       | -  |
| 15 to 19 years    | -          | -  | -        | -  | -            | -  | -       | -  |
| 20 to 24 years    | 1          | -  | -        | -  | -            | -  | -       | -  |
| 25 to 34 years    | 1          | -  | -        | -  | -            | -  | -       | -  |
| 35 to 44 years    | 1          | -  | -        | -  | 1            | -  | -       | -  |
| 45 to 54 years    | -          | -  | -        | -  | -            | -  | -       | -  |
| 55 to 65 years    | -          | -  | -        | -  | 1            | -  | -       | -  |
| 65 years and over | 1          | -  | -        | -  | -            | -  | -       | -  |
| TOTAL             | 4          | -  | -        | -  | 2            | -  | -       | -  |

## YEARLY FIGURES FOR THE LAST DECADE.

| YEAR. | NEW CASES. |          | DEATHS. |          |
|-------|------------|----------|---------|----------|
|       | Pul.       | Non-Pul. | Pul.    | Non-Pul. |
| 1955  | 18         | -        | 3       | -        |
| 1956  | 17         | -        | 5       | -        |
| 1957  | 9          | 1        | 2       | 1        |
| 1958  | 10         | -        | 3       | -        |
| 1959  | 17         | -        | 1       | -        |
| 1960  | 10         | -        | 3       | -        |
| 1961  | 11         | 1        | 3       | -        |
| 1962  | 7          | 1        | 3       | -        |
| 1963  | 5          | -        | 1       | 2        |
| 1964  | 4          | -        | 2       | -        |

## TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

Total on Register 31st December 1963.....185  
Removed from Register during 1964.....15  
Total Remaining on Register 31st December 1964.....170

The prevention of the spread of this disease particularly when an active case is found in a household or in a school, is of the highest importance and here X-Ray examination and tuberculin-testing of contacts play their part and where indicated, B.C.G. vaccination offered.

The proximity of the Radiography Unit at New Cross Hospital may be taken advantage of by individuals when they think such a visit is advisable and the Referral Centre at the same location is available to local practitioners for diagnostic and progress information in respect of their patients.

I am indebted to Dr. Hutchison, Medical Director of the Unit, for a most comprehensive and informative report on the findings of the Unit during 1964.

"The static 100m.m. unit continued to concentrate on high risk groups, such as general practitioner referrals, contacts, ante-natal patients, Tuberculin positive children etc."

"General practitioner sessions continued to be well attended".

"Among general practitioner referrals, the active rate was 8.8 per thousand and 70% of those had a positive sputum."

"Mobile Surveys were concentrated on factories." as being more likely to uncover unsuspected cases.

"Public Surveys were not carried out unless specially indicated and requested by the Medical Officer of Health."

From previous such surveys it was found that they were, on the whole, unproductive. A more rewarding catchment area was likely in the factory population.

### Tuberculosis among Asians

"A total of 3,433 were x-rayed. The active rate among those referred by general practitioners was 3.3% representing 17 cases among 507 patients, and the overall rate for the total was 9.3 per thousand."

The active rate was higher among Pakistanis than Indians, being 10.8 and 9.3 per thousand respectively.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

### Sanitary Inspection

The systematic inspection of the district has been carried out in an efficient manner. Details are given in the report of the Health Inspector.

The general sanitary conditions of the district are satisfactory and there were no cases of disease or ill-health attributable to insanitary conditions.

### Food Hygiene

Complaints in respect of unfit or contaminated food were infrequent and it was not found necessary to institute proceedings.

Two cases of suspected food poisoning were investigated during the year. Both cases were in the same family.

In respect of this problem of food hygiene as a whole, talks to food handlers no doubt are made by your inspectors and may serve a useful purpose but perhaps more important would be the examination in detail of the actual food handling techniques practised.

As regards ice-cream and failure to reach grade I or II standard can usually be traced to insufficient care of serving utensils or containers. This failure can usually be overcome by resort to pre-packed ice-cream.

### Caravans

The presence of undesirable itinerants has not given so much trouble this year but the problem of finding suitable sites for such people still remains and is one to which the County authority is giving consideration.

### Water Supply

The Sedgley Urban District, with the exception of the Goldthorn Park area, is supplied by the South Staffordshire Water Works Company. The Goldthorn Park area receives supply from the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking.

I am indebted to Mr. R.H. Taylor, Engineer-in-Chief, for the following information.

#### (a) South Staffordshire Waterworks Company

1. The water supply to the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
2. The supply to the Sedgley district is obtained mainly from three pumping stations situated outside the boundaries of the Authority. Chlorination is practised at all three stations as a precautionary measure, but owing to the method of chlorination, samples of the water prior to chlorination are not obtainable at two of the stations.

During 1964, 157 samples of the chlorinated water were all free from coliform bacteria, as were 110 samples of raw water.

Samples of the supply within the boundaries of the Authority were also examined.

During 1964, 30 samples from the tanks, 15 from the reservoir and 15 from the Waterman's house were all free from coliform bacteria.

3. The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, the 15 samples from the Waterman's house being all free from any detectable quantities of lead.
4. Chlorination is practised at most of the pumping stations as a precautionary measure. In cases of possible contamination in the event of burst or damaged mains, emptying reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination is performed. Special staff and apparatus are available for this work. New mains, etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.
5. The number of dwelling houses supplied from the public water mains in 1964 was:-
  - (a) 9,034 direct to houses,
  - (b) 245 by means of standpipes.

The population supplied is estimated by the Company at 3.24 persons per house.

#### Fluoride Content

Following tests carried out in the area, the water was found to have a content of naturally occurring fluoride of 0.06 parts per million.

#### (b) Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking

I am indebted to Mr. W.C. Johnson, M.I.C.E., M.I.Mech.E., M.I.W.E Water Engineer and Manager, for the following information:-

1. The water supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.
2. The water supplied is not plumbo-solvent.
3. There has been no known contamination of the water supply subsequent to leaving the works.

The water going into supply is derived from a number of sources and contains roughly equal amounts of treated river water and well water.

Fluoride values fall within the range of 0.01 - 0.11 parts per million (as F.).

Sampling conforms to the standards set by the World Health Organisation. The reservoirs, tanks, re-pumping stations, mains and distributing systems are examined and sampled on a usual 3-weekly rota.

Number of samples examined in 1964

|     |                       |       |
|-----|-----------------------|-------|
| (a) | Bacteriological ..... | 2,531 |
| (b) | Chemical .....        | 775   |
| (c) | Biological .....      | 191   |
| (d) | Radiological .....    | -     |

|       |       |
|-------|-------|
| Total | 3,497 |
|-------|-------|

No radiological examinations were carried out owing to a fault in the recording apparatus. Routine examinations will commence in January 1965.

Of the samples bacteriologically examined, I calculate that approximately 98% were free from Coli-organisms per 100 ml.

As regards chemical examinations, since the waters supplied within the Undertaking's area vary in chemical nature, one from another, and in many cases are mixed in varying proportions, attention has been focussed almost entirely on the water as supplied to the consumer.

I am satisfied that the water supplied to the urban district is of the very high standard in respect of purity and the steps and precautions taken to ensure same all embracing.

In perusing the Reports one cannot but feel that the Companies recognise the responsible position they hold in relation to the health of the district they supply. To ensure this they have made use of all technical, bacteriological and chemical advancements in the treatment, pumping and distribution of the water.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Your Engineer and Surveyor has supplied me with the following report.

Foul and Stormwater Sewerage

During the year a relief foul sewer was constructed in Cotwall End Road and Straits Green, where on occasions, due to surcharging in times of storm and blockages in the existing foul sewer where the gradient is rather flat, several residents experienced trouble from sewage around their houses.

The foul sewer and the inverted syphon in Straits Road are at present inadequate to cope with the extensive development in the locality of The Straits, and being subject to considerable surcharge in times of storm, some overflow takes place to Bobs Brook.

In the Estimates for 1965/6, provision has been made for the laying of a new sewer of greater diameter and also a duplicate cast iron syphon.

Reference was made in the Report for 1963 to the main outfall sewers, 'passing' through Hickmerlands and Sedgley Hall Farm lands to Gospel End Sewage Disposal Works, and along Gospel End Road to Gospel End Works.

During the year under review, the design for new sewers to replace or relieve these inadequate existing ones, was placed in the hands of Consulting Engineers.

Regarding surface water sewerage, the Council decided to include in their estimates for 1965/66 schemes for dealing with Cinder Road brookcourse and the watercourse through Wood Farm, Sedgley, which are inadequate at the present time to cope with the discharge during heavy storms.

### Sewage Disposal

The Lower Gornal Sewage Disposal Works were extensions and modernisation were completed during 1963, has consistently produced a final effluent of very good quality more than complying with the Royal Commission Standards.

The residents of the nearby houses have unfortunately had cause to complain of occasional offensive smell. This emanated from the sludge and was most pronounced when sludge was being run on to the drying beds, or when dried sludge was being lifted and carted away, and of course when the wind direction was from the South or West.

Aerial deodorant sprays were used but could not be said to have been completely effective. The basic cause of the trouble is that the sludge digestion hoped for was not in fact materialising. The method of digestion adopted (without the use of heat) is tending to give trouble in Sewage Works all over the World, and it is thought that household detergents may be a major cause.

Attempts are now being made to get digestion going and if these are not successful, the Council intend to give consideration to heated digestion, necessitating fairly expensive plant.

At the Gospel End Sewage Works, the scheme for enlarging and modernising has been put out to tender, and a start is likely to be made early in 1965. The extensions will be on similar lines to those at Lower Gornal, but in this case, heated digestion of the sludge will be incorporated.

Pending the completion of this Scheme, the Council propose to consider all possible means of improving the effluent and reducing pollution of the Brook, and the spraying of a large proportion of the effluent on to nearby grass land is one of the proposals under consideration.

### Public Conveniences

During the year extensive repair work has been carried out to all public conveniences in the District.

Damage by vandals continues to be a serious problem.

## Housing

### (a) Municipal

The Council had one of the best years in its Housing Programme with 203 housing units handed over.

The aluminium bungalow site at Stickley Lane has been cleared, and a Contract started for 74 permanent dwellings thereon.

The "second leg" of the shopping precinct at Upper Gornal should be completed early in 1965. The erection of 36 flats in the area between Kent Street and Pale Street was commenced during the year.

The Housing Committee have continued their policy of providing central heating in flats, and have also decided that in future Contracts, houses should have solid fuel central heating installed.

Demolition of unfit houses and properties in Clearance areas has continued throughout the year.

### (b) Private

Throughout the year, private building has proceeded at a high rate. Sewage disposal difficulty has considerably reduced such building in Sedgley part of the District, but in other parts of the District, private building has proceeded rapidly.

During the year, 301 private houses were completed, and at the end of the year 189 were under construction.

## Mortuary

The number admitted to the mortuary during the year was 27, distributed as follows:-

|              |     |     |     |     |     |       |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Sedgley ...  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7     |
| Upper Gornal | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3     |
| Lower Gornal | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14    |
| Coseley ...  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3     |
|              |     |     |     |     |     | <hr/> |
|              |     |     |     |     |     | 27    |
|              |     |     |     |     |     | <hr/> |

## HOUSING

The housing situation, both nationally and locally, in respect of the dearth of available and suitable accommodation, for young married couples who are forced to live with parents with the result of overcrowding and family disharmony arising and of living conditions adverse to health, is one of the most urgent problems of the present day and until the situation is overtaken the welfare and health of many will not be attained.

The majority of those who seek an interview with me to support their application for rehousing are generally living under the conditions I have mentioned above, that is overcrowding, family disharmony aggravated by having to share cooking, personal and clothes washing facilities. All those adverse conditions react strongly on the physical and particularly the mental health of young mothers.

I appreciate that the long waiting list and the shortage of available accommodation to meet the demand for rehousing are the frustrating factors your Tenancy Committee has to contend with when I submit from time to time cases for their special consideration.

Nevertheless, it is good to record that the really deserving cases are rehoused.

The general housing position to date in respect of unfit houses and of progress in Demolition and Clearance Areas is given in your Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

With the policy of continuing the demolition of really unfit individual houses or effecting clearance areas, the standard of housing in the district is readily rising.

When a reasonably fit house is drifting into disrepair through the neglect, reluctance or unwillingness of the owner to effect the necessary repairs, threatened action of making a Demolition Order often results in an undertaking being given to make the house fit.

Clearance Areas generally effected under Compulsory Purchase Orders would appear to be the most satisfactory method of dealing with grouped unfit and obsolete properties.

## REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The staffing difficulties mentioned in my last annual report continued throughout the year 1964. During the whole of that time, one inspector was away from work with a serious illness. The result was that Mr. Millward and myself attempted to carry out all the public health duties of the department. Obviously we did not succeed and many sections of our work fell behind. The more important duties were attended to, otherwise we just kept things going. The 38 hours week, the Saturday morning leave and the holiday entitlement were matters to be forgotten for the time being.

This staff shortage should be borne in mind in reading the following pages. After all, two inspectors for a district of 30,000 population, responsible for public cleansing and house lettings in addition to all the normal duties, were quite inadequate.

### HOUSING

#### Repairs

Little work was done during the year with regard to general repairs to houses. It was quite impossible to undertake any house-to-house inspections in order to discover defects. Those which we dealt with were brought to our attention through complaints made to the department. In all, defects were remedied in 21 houses during the year.

This may seem a small number, but the occupiers of the other houses in the district must have been reasonably satisfied with the state of repair of their houses or not sufficiently concerned to make complaint. All such matters brought to our attention were dealt with.

Disrepair, as such, is becoming less and less important, year by year in older houses. Even in unfit property, disrepair appears to be becoming far less obvious and far less important than other sanitary defects. Among the newer houses, the time has hardly arrived yet for disrepair to assume any importance.

The steadily increasing number of owner/occupied houses has also contributed much to the generally better standard of repair found today. An owner will obviously take an interest in keeping his house in good condition.

Taken as a whole, I feel that the houses in this district are in a fairly good state of repair. I say this from my knowledge of the district seen in the course of many visits of various kinds. I am also sure that there is, nevertheless, a lot of unnecessary disrepair that ought to be made good.

#### Improvement Grants

There are a considerable number of houses in this district which although reasonably sound from the point of view of repair, lack modern amenities such as bathrooms, hot water supplies and internal W.C.'s. Many of such houses are well built, no more than 60 years old, and obviously have still a good life ahead of them. If they were brought up-to-date by the provision of the above-mentioned amenities and the construction of other improvements they would have a longer life.

/

It was in order to save this class of property that the Government Improvement Grant scheme was formulated, a scheme whereby 50% of the cost of improvements will be paid by the local authority.

In spite of the obvious advantages, the scheme has not proved to be a great success. Although we have tried to publicize the matter, the number of applications has been disappointingly low, and practically all the applications we have had have been from owner/occupiers. Perhaps, not surprisingly, landlords of tenanted houses are just not interested in improving the lot of their tenants. Instead, they want them out so that they can sell the property. And it is more than likely that many owner/occupiers just cannot afford the other 50% of the cost of the work. This authority has so far not agreed to lend to the applicant his share of the cost.

During the year, six applications for discretionary grants were approved - 50% of the cost of the works to a maximum of £400. The actual amount of the grants totalled £1977. In addition, three standard grants were approved - for the provision of basic amenities only. The amount of the grants in these cases totalled £455. One application for a standard grant had to be refused as it was considered that the property did not have a life of 15 years.

The Housing Act, 1964, among its other provisions, confers powers and duties on local authorities to compel the carrying out of works for the improvement of dwellings which are without all or any of the standard amenities. It was not possible, however, during 1964 to take any action under this new statute.

#### Houses in Multiple Occupation

This is one matter which does not cause any problem in Sedgley. There were only six houses in the district used in this manner. These were large houses with the rooms let off to separate families. From our previous knowledge, conditions were not too bad, each family generally having a bedroom and a living room, with joint use of kitchen, bathroom and so on. Nevertheless, all such premises were inspected and requests for improved amenities were made to the owners. In addition, we sought the advice of the Fire Prevention Officer and incorporated his comments in our requests.

We were agreeably surprised to find that we met with little opposition from the owners. In some cases considerably more than we asked for was actually carried out. One of the premises was purchased by the Council for office accommodation and the occupants rehoused.

#### Unfit Houses

We are reaching the stage with regard to unfit houses when we are having to raise our standards. The kind of houses met with only a few years ago, and aptly described as slums, are not to be found today in this district. There are still many old and obsolete houses, but in many cases the occupants have no wish to leave. They have made their homes very comfortable and they are so used to the lack of certain modern amenities that they have no great desire for them. Neither have they the desire nor the means to pay the greatly increased rent that moving to a more modern house would entail.

The houses which were dealt with individually as unfit during the year were those about which complaints had been made. Not only was it impossible to go out looking for unfit houses, but the number dealt with had to bear some relationship to the number of new units of accommodation erected by the Council.

However, not every house about which we received a complaint was dealt with in this manner. There are still far too many occupants of our older houses, especially young married couples, who consider them far worse than they really are. They are only too ready to use their defects as a lever towards getting a Council house.

In all, Demolition Orders were made on 15 houses during the year, and Closing Orders on 6. Since the end of the War a total of 406 individual houses have been condemned as unfit for habitation. This does not include houses in Clearance Areas which are dealt with in the following section.

### Clearance Areas

During 1964 no further Clearance Areas were declared. This was one of the casualties arising from the serious shortage in the department.

However, it should be noted that since the end of the War, the number of houses dealt with in Clearance Areas (generally taken as Compulsory Purchase Orders) and in groups acquired for demolition by agreement total 517. This figure, together with the 406 individual houses, means that 923 houses have been condemned in Sedgley between 1946 and the end of 1964.

### Rehousing

The letting of all Council houses is entrusted to the Health Department. We are thus enabled to keep very closely in touch with all aspects of the housing situation in the district.

During the year a total of 344 families were rehoused as compared with 230 during 1963 and 217 during 1962. Of the total number rehoused, 188 families were from the general waiting list, 100 from condemned houses, and 56 were moved at their own request from Council owned houses to more suitable accommodation.

At the end of the year the number of names on our Application List (including those in condemned property) totalled 720. At the end of 1963 it was 723, and at the end of 1962 it was 740. This appears to be somewhat disappointing as we only seem to be rehousing a number about equal to the new applications that are made.



## FOOD INSPECTION AND HYGIENE

### Slaughterhouses

During the year all animals killed in the three private slaughterhouses in the district were inspected in accordance with the Regulations.

I give below a table showing the animals inspected and the condemnations.

#### Tuberculosis

|        | <u>Number<br/>Inspected</u> | <u>Whole carcasses<br/>condemned</u> | <u>Part<br/>condemned</u> | <u>Percentage<br/>affected</u> |
|--------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cattle | 1031                        | Nil                                  | 3                         | 0.3                            |
| Pigs   | 2878                        | Nil                                  | 117                       | 4.1                            |
| Sheep  | 6941                        | Nil                                  | Nil                       | Nil                            |

#### Other Diseases

|        | <u>Number<br/>Inspected</u> | <u>Whole carcasses<br/>condemned</u> | <u>Part<br/>condemned</u> | <u>Percentage<br/>affected</u> |
|--------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cattle | 1031                        | Nil                                  | 161                       | 15.6                           |
| Pigs   | 2878                        | 1                                    | 153                       | 5.35                           |
| Sheep  | 6941                        | 4                                    | 635                       | 9.2                            |

The total weight of meat and edible offals condemned throughout the year was 2 tons, 2 qrs, 21 lbs.

Calves are practically never killed in any of our slaughterhouses. Not does any slaughtering of goats or horses take place in the district.

The meat killed in the district is generally of a high standard, most of the condemnations above-mentioned being due to liver affections.

### Shops and Other Food Premises

These premises did not perhaps receive as much attention as they deserved during the early part of the year, but later on advantage was taken during inspections under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act to cover all food premises in the district.

Speaking generally no serious infringements of the Regulations were found, nor any really unhygienic premises. Numerous smaller matters, however, were brought to the attention of occupiers.

During the year the following foodstuffs were condemned in shops and other food premises excluding slaughterhouses.

|                        |                                         |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 3 large tins ham       | 2 tins soup                             |
| 1 tin ox tongue        | 2 " steak                               |
| 3 tins evaporated milk | 2 " corned beef                         |
| 41 tins fruit          | 1 tin mutton                            |
| 22 " tomatoes          | 7 lbs. dried figs                       |
| 10 " meat              | 25 lbs. frozen ox kidneys               |
| 3 " orange juice       | 268 pkts. of miscellaneous frozen foods |
| 3 " baked beans        | 20 lollies                              |
| 1 tin peas             | 27 ice cream bricks                     |

## Sampling and Analyses

During the year no sampling of foodstuffs, ice cream or lollies was carried out. The time which would have been taken in collecting the samples and transporting them to the laboratory at Stafford was not felt to be justified in view of our many other commitments. The same remarks apply to the hygiene swabs which we formerly took regularly from various food establishments.

## Food - unfit and containing foreign bodies

A number of cases of foodstuffs were brought to the department by members of the public. In four cases, we considered the matter serious enough to report the facts to the Health Committee and get authority to prosecute.

A packet of potato crisps containing a foreign body - case withdrawn through a discrepancy in the evidence.

A packet of skinless pork sausage found to be unfit - Fined £20.

A steak and kidney pie with mould - case lost through inconclusive nature of evidence given by purchaser.

A packet of crumpets found to be unfit - Fined £25.

## Milk

During the year 54 routine samples of milk were taken by the official sampler and submitted to a number of tests as follows:-

40 to the Methylene Blue Test, 2 samples failing to pass the test.

30 to the Phosphatase Test, all passing.

14 to the Turbidity Test, all passing.

Both the above failures were from the same farm. A biological test for tuberculosis was made from the same milk but proved to be negative.

Throughout the year considerable trouble was caused by milk cartoned at a farm in this district and sold in vending machines stationed in several surrounding districts. None of these vending machines are actually in this district. The Authorities who had the machines repeatedly sampled the milk and reported numerous failures with the Methylene Blue Test. Samples were taken at the farm, generally with satisfactory results. It appears that with such vending machines it is almost impossible to guard against a Methylene Blue failure and at the same time make a profit. The machines are filled with cartons and are visited daily in order to replace from the end of the line the number sold. Sales fluctuate to such an extent that although at one time a whole machine may be sold out in a day, at other times it may take 3 or 4 days before any particular carton completes the run from intake to outlet. To avoid this, cartons are sometimes taken out after a day or two and put into other vending machines with a quicker turnover. But this is no solution as this milk starts out on its journey through the machine already at a disadvantage. On the credit side, these machines are a boon to many people, but the Methylene Blue Test is too severe a one for such milk.

Further trouble was caused by the same milk when reports were received that examination had revealed Brucella Abortus. As the milk had originated from differing sources the matter took some sorting out. The latest samples examined for Brucella have proved negative.

One of the causes of the apparent confusion over the milk from this farm is the number of different authorities concerned with enforcing the Regulations. Apart from the number of different local authorities who have the vending machines in their areas, there is this authority which has the farm and bottling plant, the County Council who are the licensing authority, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. One is hardly surprised that the farmer concerned is not entirely enthusiastic over officials.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

### Household Storage Arrangements

The bin normally used in this district is the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cu. ft. B.S.S. dustbin. This is the bin used in our Council houses and recommended for all other premises. We have no municipal bin provision scheme so that other types of bins do exist in quite large numbers.

The  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cu. ft. bin is proving rather small for many of our households, especially where there is central heating and in smoke control areas where gas fires have been installed. In such houses there is difficulty in burning paper and cartons and the bin is quickly filled.

It was estimated, after some observation, that about one house in every 12 had a container of refuse, in addition to the full bin. While such containers could be objected to on hygienic grounds, especially if they were cardboard or wooden boxes, it was felt that an extra bin could not be demanded in every case as the extra refuse was only occasional. The refuse collectors were compensated for the extra work involved by an adjustment in their bonus scheme.

As reported previously the men had objected to a suggestion that we gradually introduce a  $3\frac{1}{4}$  cu. ft. bin because of the extra weight of such a bin. To get over this difficulty we purchased a number of plastic bins,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  cu. ft. size, which we are experimenting with.

The paper sack system has been discussed at length but rejected, at any rate for the time being, owing to its cost. There may be a place, however, for paper sacks in certain types of premises. Blocks of flats, for example, pose problems when galvanized bins are stored upstairs on landings. I am not, of course, referring to multi-storey flats. Again, large institutions and certain business properties might find a considerable advantage in this method of storage. For the ordinary householder, the paper sack is certainly more hygienic. An examination of the inside of many dustbins will easily bear this out.

Paper sacks are used, nevertheless, in small quantities in this district. At holiday time when the normal refuse collection cannot be made, sacks are distributed to the householders concerned during the previous week in order to hold any excess refuse. More than 50% of the sacks issued, however, are never returned. What happens to them I do not know.

There are no bulk containers in this district as we have no multi-storey flats. Bulk containers might be useful at schools and certain business properties, but the number of such would not warrant the purchase of the special type of vehicle required for emptying such containers.

### Refuse Collection

A weekly collection of refuse was maintained throughout the year, although it must be stated that at bank holidays the refuse is left until the normal collection day in the following week. The department also shuts down for one complete week in August.

These bank holiday arrangements are not popular with some members of the public. The alternative is to start after the holiday where we left off. This has been carefully considered on several occasions and rejected as being liable to cause still more complaints. Everyone in the district would then be affected with overflowing bins during the following week, and the more people affected, the more complaints. Furthermore, everyone is used to the weekly collection on a definite day. Gates can be unlocked, garages left open, savage dogs locked up and so on. If the day of collection were altered, we feel that the complaints would be very numerous. Moreover, the new day of collection after Christmas would only be getting established when it would have to be altered again. at Easter, and once again at Whit, and so on every year. We feel that the issue of a paper sack should solve the problem.

All refuse is collected in Shelvoke and Drewry fore and aft tippers, and there is little dust from the operation, provided the men remember to close the rear shutter when the vehicle is being tipped forward.

### Refuse Disposal.

During the year all refuse was tipped at Humphrey Street, Lower Gornal. This tip is now completed and after Christmas we moved to a new tip at The Alley, Lower Gornal. The tip at Humphrey Street had been in use, on and off for about 30 years. The ground is now up to road level and should be a valuable piece of ground in the future, even although it is zoned as an open space.

There is plenty of land in the possession of this Council for tipping purposes for many years to come, and there is no need to consider any alternative method of refuse disposal. The tip is controlled by one man using a Weatherill mechanical shovel. The face of the tip is covered after each day's working, and the surface of the tip whenever suitable material is to hand. Quite a lot of the material suitable for covering the face is unsuitable for the top of the tip where the vehicles have to run. Generally speaking, suitable covering material is not easy to obtain.

### Salvage

Although the market for waste paper improved during the year, it was felt that little advantage could be taken of this. We had no trailers to extend our existing collection by keeping the paper separate from house refuse, and in view of previous fluctuations in the market the purchase of trailers was considered to be a hazardous prospect. Moreover, any ~~great~~ increase in paper salvaged would also have meant the purchase of a mechanical baling press. This was also considered unwarranted, especially as certain changes in local government areas were being considered at the time. Consequently salvage has proceeded as in previous years. A special collection is made to shops. Whatever comes in the refuse vehicles is buried in the tip.

## Establishment

The establishment of the department is 25 men, but there were sometimes more than 25 names on the books. Owing to absences, however, there were never 25 men at work at any one time.

The number of hours lost during the year was as follows:-

|                                      |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Total hours lost through sickness    | 4309               |
| " " " " holidays                     | 3042               |
| " " " " under establishment          | 831                |
|                                      | <u>8182</u>        |
| less hours worked over establishment | 539                |
|                                      | <u><u>7643</u></u> |

This figure of total hours compares very closely with that for the previous year when it was 7555. It is equivalent to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  men out of our 25 being absent for the whole of the year. In other words all the work was carried out by  $21\frac{1}{2}$  men.

## OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

This Act came into force on the 1st August, 1964, apart from a few sections which have different dates. At this time we were badly understaffed. Nevertheless, a start was made on enforcing the Act's provisions and registering the premises.

After allowing a reasonable time for registration forms to be received, it was realised that all premises in the district would have to be visited, if only to check whether they should be registered or not. At the end of the year we had not completed our initial inspections.

It was noted that a considerable number of premises which should have been registered, in fact were not. In such cases registration forms were left with the persons concerned with a request that they be filled up and returned. It was felt that no other action was reasonable or practicable. The usual excuse for not registering was that the proprietors had never even heard of the Act.

During the inspections the opportunity was taken to see if all other matters affecting the department under other statutes were also being observed. Notices were served for all breaches of the Act, the total number of notices served by the end of the year being 62.

No exemptions have been applied for, and there have been no prosecutions.

The general impression from the inspections so far carried out has been that, while quite a number of small improvements must be carried out, on the whole the premises in this district are reasonably satisfactory and the staff employed there have few if any complaints to make.

The following tables are taken from the report we are required to make to the Ministry of Labour at the end of the year.

TABLE A

Registrations and General Inspections.

Totals

|                                                         |                                                      |                                                               |                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Offices                                                 | 24                                                   | 24                                                            | 16                                                                                           |
| Retail shops                                            | 93                                                   | 92                                                            | 68                                                                                           |
| Wholesale shops, warehouses                             | 6                                                    | 6                                                             | 4                                                                                            |
| Catering establishments open<br>to the public, canteens | 44                                                   | 44                                                            | 16                                                                                           |
| Fuel storage depots                                     | 1                                                    | 1                                                             | 0                                                                                            |
| (Class of premises)                                     | (Number of<br>premises<br>registered<br>during year) | (Total<br>number<br>of reg.<br>premises<br>at end<br>of year) | (Number of<br>registered<br>premises<br>receiving a<br>general<br>inspection<br>during year) |

TABLE B

Number of visits of all kinds by inspectors to  
registered premises.

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TABLE C

Analysis of persons employed in registered  
premises by workplace.

| Class of workplace.                        | Number of persons employed. |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Offices                                    | 196                         |
| Retail shops                               | 288                         |
| Wholesale departments, warehouses          | 24                          |
| Catering establishments open to the public | 362                         |
| Canteens                                   | 1                           |
| Fuel storage depots                        | 2                           |
| Total                                      | 873                         |
| Total males                                | 344                         |
| Total females                              | 529                         |

## ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

### Industrial Premises

There is now practically no smoke nuisance of a continuing nature from any of the industrial premises in this district. The brickworks (scheduled premises under the control of the Alkali Inspectorate) are changing over rapidly to oil firing. All other industries have been dealt with in the past and are continuing to function satisfactorily.

It must be admitted, of course, that this is not an industrial area and the problem was not a very great one at the start.

### Atmospheric Analysis

We have 3 stations, situated one each in Sedgley, Upper Gornal and Lower Gornal, where daily readings are taken of smoke pollution and sulphur dioxide content of the atmosphere.

A measured quantity of air is passed through a filter by means of an electric motor, and the amount of soot collected thereon is carefully measured by means of a reflectometer. The same air passes through a neutral solution of hydrogen peroxide which is then examined and the acid content measured by means of titration.

The results are tabulated and sent to the Warren Spring Laboratory of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, which obtains other figures from all over the country. A nation-wide record is thus being kept of the state of the atmosphere.

A table is attached showing the results of these investigations. The column H shows the highest reading obtained during the month concerned, and column A gives the monthly average. The figures are expressed as microgrammes per cubic metre of the air tested.

### Smoke Control Areas

The position with regard to smoke control areas is as follows:-

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>No.1 Area</u>              | 512 houses in an area of 60 acres.<br>Confirmed 1959. In operation since 1960.                                                                                        |
| <u>No.2 Area</u>              | A rapidly expanding area of about 1300 houses at present in an area of 425 acres.<br>In operation since October 1961.                                                 |
| <u>No.3,4,5, &amp; 6 Area</u> | Four small areas of Council houses taken at the one time. There are 423 houses in an area of 31 acres. Confirmed July 1962.<br>In operation since 1963.               |
| <u>No.7 Area</u>              | Another rapidly expanding area with about 1000 houses at present in an area of 604 acres. Confirmed and in operation since October 1963.                              |
| <u>No.8 Area</u>              | An area of about 300 houses at present in 272 acres. Confirmed and in operation since July 1964.                                                                      |
| <u>No.9 Area</u>              | An area containing 708 houses at present in 509 acres. This Order has been approved by the Council and is in process of being submitted to the Ministry for approval. |

The total for these 9 areas is about 4250 houses in 1900 acres. Thus we have covered practically half our district in areas and nearly half the number of houses.

All the areas are working satisfactorily. We have had no complaints. Rather have we had quite a number of enquiries as to when smoke control areas would cover other parts of the district. And, it should be noted that this district is classified as a mining area.

TABLE OF SMOKE CONCENTRATIONS.

| TESTING STATION  | Jan. |     | Feb. |    | Mar.  |    | Apr. |    | May  |    | June |     |
|------------------|------|-----|------|----|-------|----|------|----|------|----|------|-----|
|                  | H    | A   | H    | A  | H     | A  | H    | A  | H    | A  | H    | A   |
| Jews Lane Depot. | 314  | 123 | 171  | 98 | 222   | +  | 167  | 41 | 69   | 32 | 61   | 28  |
| Straits House.   | 381  | 118 | 180  | 80 | 146   | +  | 106  | 27 | 59   | 27 | 56   | 24  |
| Health Dept.     | 264  | 126 | 202  | 84 | 180   | +  | 143  | 39 | 80   | 39 | 80   | 32  |
|                  | July |     | Aug. |    | Sept. |    | Oct. |    | Nov. |    | Dec. |     |
| Jews Lane Depot. | 82   | 24  | 69   | +  | 156   | 43 | 145  | 84 | 128  | +  | 527  | 152 |
| Straits House    | 74   | 19  | 68   | +  | 208   | 40 | 165  | 71 | 130  | +  | 586  | +   |
| Health Dept.     | 101  | 23  | 89   | +  | 159   | 32 | 222  | 93 | 174  | +  | 452  | 154 |
| -----            |      |     |      |    |       |    |      |    |      |    |      |     |

TABLE OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE CONCENTRATIONS.

|                  | Jan. |     | Feb. |     | Mar.  |    | Apr. |     | May  |    | June |     |
|------------------|------|-----|------|-----|-------|----|------|-----|------|----|------|-----|
| Jews Lane Depot  | 338  | 102 | 211  | 83  | 239   | +  | 98   | 56  | 118  | 59 | 68   | 39  |
| Straits House.   | 243  | 93  | 172  | 76  | 209   | +  | 107  | 48  | 110  | 46 | 71   | 32  |
| Health Dept.     | 395  | 139 | 232  | 121 | 299   | +  | 216  | 61  | 114  | 59 | 95   | 47  |
|                  | July |     | Aug. |     | Sept. |    | Oct. |     | Nov. |    | Dec. |     |
| Jews Lane Depot. | 57   | 27  | 50   | +   | 167   | 55 | 162  | 80  | 181  | +  | 374  | 113 |
| Straits House.   | 63   | 26  | 44   | +   | 329   | 65 | 159  | 78  | 152  | +  | 327  | +   |
| Health Dept.     | 103  | 36  | 89   | +   | 172   | 48 | 197  | 100 | 201  | +  | 466  | 153 |
| -----            |      |     |      |     |       |    |      |     |      |    |      |     |

+ Insufficient results obtained due to breakdown  
or holiday periods.

# FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959

## 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health.

| Premises                                                                                      | Number<br>on<br>Register | Number of   |                    |                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|                                                                                               |                          | Inspections | Written<br>notices | Occupiers<br>prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which<br>Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6<br>are enforced                              | 10                       | 10          | 2                  | -                       |
| (ii) Factories not included<br>in (i) in which<br>Section 7 is enforced                       | 73                       | 68          | 4                  | -                       |
| (iii) Other Premises in which<br>Section 7 is enforced<br>(excluding outworkers'<br>premises) | 6                        | 6           | 2                  | -                       |
| Total                                                                                         | 89                       | 84          | 8                  | -                       |

## 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

| Particulars                                                                 | Number of cases in which defects were found. |          |                   |                   | Number of cases in which prosecuti were institute |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                             | Found                                        | Remedied | To H.M. Inspector | By H.M. Inspector |                                                   |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1)                                                   | -                                            | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                 |
| Overcrowding (S.2)                                                          | -                                            | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                 |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3)                                              | -                                            | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                 |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4)                                                | -                                            | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                 |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)                                        | -                                            | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                 |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)                                                 |                                              |          |                   |                   |                                                   |
| a) Insufficient                                                             | 2                                            | 2        | -                 | -                 | -                                                 |
| b) Unsuitable or defective                                                  | 6                                            | 6        | -                 | 1                 | -                                                 |
| c) Not separate for sexes                                                   | -                                            | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                 |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relation to Outwork) | -                                            | -        | -                 | -                 | -                                                 |
| Total                                                                       | 8                                            | 8        | -                 | 1                 | -                                                 |

## MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

### Inspections

The total number of inspections and visits carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during the year amounted to 4097. While many of these inspections or visits were not for the purpose of finding faults, those that were resulted in the serving of 121 notices of various kinds requesting repairs, improvements or action of some kind. It should be realised that the number of inspections, while they all have to be noted nevertheless, actually means very little. An inspection could take two minutes or it could take a whole afternoon.

All notices served have to be followed up with further visits, and during the year 51 were complied with. Some of these were a carry-over from the previous year.

### Caravans

We are still being troubled by groups of nomadic caravan dwellers from time to time camping on waste ground, of which there are a considerable number of acres in this district. In some cases it is most difficult to find out who the owners of the ground are. Where the owners are known, they invariably expect the local authority to move the caravans on.

Neighbouring residents complain bitterly to the Council or its officials, under the impression that we have the power to order them off and that in consequence the caravans will disappear. It should be widely known that we have no such power.

The problem, of course, is not exclusive to Sedgley, but the biggest stumbling block to its solution is the attitude of the public who do not want the caravans near themselves. They can go anywhere else provided it is not within sight of their houses. ~~They must have water, and they want customers for their business.~~

Perhaps some government will make it compulsory for every local authority to have a licensed caravan site for such nomads. Only then will we see an end to the serious nuisance caused at the present time by these people.

### Pest Control

Although not a function required of the local authority, members of the department disposed of some 35 wasps' nests during the year. These were sited in places as varied as compost heaps and attics. In addition to these, complaints of ants called for a great number of visits, and minor infestations of other insects ranging from clover mites and red spiders to bumble bees were dealt with. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food offer a valuable advisory service in this connection in which they will identify obscure insects and advise on their treatment.

Rats, of course, continue to give rise to complaint wherever they are seen or suspected. No major infestations occurred during the year, but there were numerous instances of small numbers of rats breeding or inhabiting certain places. Derelict sites and places where irresponsible members of the public tip their rubbish, have all caused trouble in this respect. The time appears to be coming when an authority like this will have to employ a vehicle and men to do nothing else but go round the district cleaning up such sites both from the aesthetic and from the hygienic view point.

### Factories

Although in comparison with some other authorities in the West Midland industrial belt we have few factories, there are still sufficient to make their regular inspection an important task. It is our policy when inspecting a factory to deal with all aspects of our work at the time. There is the question of atmospheric pollution dealt with previously in this report; the canteen where there is one is carefully inspected; the sanitary accommodation is examined; the matter of refuse removal is dealt with; and the premises are examined for evidence of rat infestation. It is our endeavour to inspect all factories at least once a year. Some premises, of course, require and get more frequent attention.

### Conclusion

Finally, I wish to thank all members of the staff and the workmen for their loyal co-operation throughout the year. Special mention must be made of the valuable work carried out by Mr. J. Millward, my deputy, and Mr. W. Collins, foreman of the Cleansing section. Without their assistance and ability to work without detailed instructions and very often on their own initiative, the work of the department could not have gone on.

The Health and Housing Committees have always supported the department in every way possible and my thanks to them are sincere, especially to their respective chairmen, Councillor F.S. Dews and Councillor T.P. Hanley.

This is a joint report with that of the Medical Officer of Health, and I wish to place on record the friendly and co-operative spirit that exists between all members of the staff and Dr. F.B. Mackenzie.

D.J.W. ROBERTSON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.



